

"be prepared with one side only, and calculated to make the impression on the face of such grant, commission, record or other public act," etc. Governor Martin commissioned Col. Abisha Thomas, the agent of North Carolina in Philadelphia for the settlement of the State's Revolutionary claims against the Federal Government, to have one made, at the same time sending him a design therefor.²⁰ After correspondence between Governor Martin and Colonel Thomas concerning the seal, in which suggestions were made by Dr. Hugh Williamson and Senator Samuel Johnston, both attending Congress in Philadelphia at that time, they concluded that the design offered by Governor Martin would not do, and Colonel Thomas submitted a sketch by an artist. The sketch submitted by the artist to Governor Martin is as follows: "The figures are Minerva in the act of introducing Ceres with her horn of plenty to Liberty, who is seated on a pedestal holding in her right hand a book on which is inscribed the word 'Constitution.' In the background are introduced a pyramid, denoting strength and durability and a pine tree which relates immediately to the produce of the State."

This sketch, omitting Minerva and with other changes, was finally accepted by Governor Spaight, and Colonel Thomas had the seal made accordingly. The seal was cut some time in the summer of 1793, and Colonel Thomas brought it home with him in time for the meeting of the Legislature in November, 1793, at which session it was "approved." The screw to the seal would not work, so in 1794 the General Assembly passed an act authorizing the use of the old seal of 1778 until the new one could be put in order.²¹ No official description of this seal has been found, but it was very much like the present one. It has two figures, Liberty and Plenty. Liberty is seated on a pedestal with her pole in her right hand, and her cap on the pole; in her left hand is a scroll with the word "Constitution" upon it. Plenty is standing to the left and front of Liberty; around her head is a circlet of flowers; in her right hand, leaning against her shoulder, is her cornucopia, mouth upwards, overflowing with fruits and produce. In her left is an ear of corn. Around the circumference are the words THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

²⁰See Appendix. ²¹See Appendix, Act of 1794.